

1 1. (canceled)

1 2. (canceled)

1 3. (canceled)

1 4. (canceled)

1 5. (currently amended) A method employed in a distributed database system that includes a  
2 plurality of database systems for responding to a request received in a particular database  
3 system of the plurality, each database system of the plurality including a query engine and a  
4 database and

5 the method comprising the steps performed ~~during execution of the request~~ in the particular  
6 database system's query engine of:

7 determining when the request is parsed whether ~~the~~ an execution of the request is  
8 preferably done at least in part in another database system of the plurality; and

9 if that is the case, redirecting that part of the execution to the other database system.

1 6. (currently amended) The method set forth in claim 5 wherein:

2 the request includes a specifier referring to an object that is not present in the  
3 particular database system ~~one or more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a~~  
4 ~~plurality thereof in the distributed database system; and~~

5 the step of determining whether the execution of the request is preferably done in  
6 the other database system determines that ~~an~~ the object required for execution of the request  
7 is ~~lacking~~ not present in the particular database system.

1 7. (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

2           placing the request in a form required for execution in the particular database  
3 system;  
4           modifying the form when it has been determined that the request is preferably  
5 executed at least in part in the other database system; and  
6           in the step of redirecting, the modified form is redirected.

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1   **8.** (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 7 wherein:  
2           the request includes an SQL statement;  
3           the form required for execution is a cursor; and  
4           in the step of modifying the form, the cursor is marked for redirection.

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1   **9.** (previously presented) The method set forth in claim 7 wherein:  
2           the request includes a call to a procedure object; and  
3           in the step of modifying the form, the call is rewritten in the form required for  
4 execution as a remote procedure call directed to the other database system.

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1   **10.** (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3 performs the method set forth in claim 5.

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1   **11.** (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3 performs the method set forth in claim 6.

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1   **12.** (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3 performs the method set forth in claim 7.

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1    **13.** (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3    performs the method set forth in claim 8.

1    **14.** (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:  
2           the data storage device contains code which when executed by a processor  
3    performs the method set forth in claim 9.

1    **15.** (currently amended) Apparatus that redirects at least a part of a request received in a  
2    particular database system belonging to a distributed database system to another database  
3    system in the distributed database system, each database system belonging to the  
4    distributed database system including a query engine and a database and  
5    the apparatus comprising:  
6       a request analyzer in the particular database system's query engine that  
7    determines that the request is preferably executed at least in part in the other database  
8    system; and  
9       a redirector in the particular database system's query engine that redirects  
10   execution of at least the part of the request to the other database system.

1    **16.** (previously presented) The apparatus set forth in claim 15 wherein:  
2           the request analyzer places the request in a form required for execution in the  
3    particular database system and causes the form to be modified when the request is  
4    preferably executed at least in part in the other database system; and  
5           the redirector redirects the modified form.

1    **17.** (previously presented) The apparatus set forth in claim 16 wherein:  
2           the request includes an SQL statement;  
3           the request analyzer includes the SQL statement in a cursor that the request  
4    analyzer causes to be marked for redirection; and

5 the redirector redirects the marked cursor.

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1 18. (previously presented) The apparatus set forth in claim 16 wherein:

2 the request includes a call to a procedure object; and

3 the redirector causes the call to be rewritten in a form required for execution as  
4 a remote procedure call directed to the other database system.

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1 19 (currently amended) The apparatus set forth in claim 15 wherein:

2 the request includes a specifier referring to an object that is not present in the  
3 particular database system ~~one or more specifiers referring to objects belonging to a~~  
4 ~~plurality thereof in the distributed database system and~~

5 the request analyzer determines that an object required for execution of the  
6 request is ~~lacking~~ not present in the particular database system.

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1 20. (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3 apparatus as set forth in claim 15.

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1 21. (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3 apparatus as set forth in claim 16.

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1 22. (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an  
3 apparatus as set forth in claim 17.

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1 23. (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an

3 apparatus as set forth in claim 18.

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1 **24.** (previously presented) A data storage device, characterized in that:

2 the data storage device contains code which when executed implements an

3 apparatus as set forth in claim 19.